

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting device comprising:

plural cells provided at a seating part of a vehicle seat and defined by an array of rows in a width direction of the vehicle seat and columns in a cross direction of the vehicle seat for detecting partial pressures of the seating part;

a pad provided in the seating part of the vehicle;

a peak row detecting means for calculating a total partial pressure of a predetermined number of rows continuing in a column direction and for defining as a peak row any row of the predetermined number of rows having a maximum total;

a lateral width calculating means for calculating each total of the partial pressures of cells per column in the predetermined number of rows, for comparing the obtained total of the partial pressures per column to a predetermined width threshold per column, and for obtaining the lateral width by counting the number of the column in which the total pressure exceeds the corresponding predetermined width threshold per column;

a determining means for determining a condition of the vehicle seat on which a passenger is sitting based on a comparison result between the obtained lateral width and a lateral width threshold;

a temperature sensor for detecting temperature of the seating part of the vehicle seat; and

a correcting means for correcting at least one of either the obtained lateral width or the lateral width threshold based on the temperature detected by the temperature sensor in consideration of change of hardness of the pad being influenced by temperature change.

6. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting device according to claim 5, wherein the correcting means sets the lateral width threshold in response to a range that includes the detected temperature.

7. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting device according to claim 5, further comprising a deviation determining means for detecting a deviation of the pressure in the width direction applied to the vehicle seat, wherein the lateral

width calculating means calculates the lateral width in reference to the predetermined width threshold per column being moved by the deviation determined by the deviation determining means in the width direction of the vehicle seat.

8. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting device according to claim 7, wherein the correcting means sets the lateral width threshold in response to a range that includes the detected temperature.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting device according to claim 5, wherein the correcting means corrects at least one of either the obtained lateral width or the lateral width threshold based on the temperature detected by the temperature sensor in consideration of change of outputs of the plural cells being influenced from temperature change.

12. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting device according to claim 5 wherein the occupant detecting devices comprises:

total pressure value calculating means for obtaining a total pressure value by summing up the detected partial pressures;

edge calculating means for obtaining an edge value by summing up all differences between the partial pressure detected at each cell and an average partial pressure obtained by averaging the partial pressures detected at cells located next to each cell to obtain a total difference, and dividing the obtained total difference by the total pressure value obtained by the total pressure value calculating means; and determining means for determining a condition of the vehicle seat on which an adult passenger is sitting based on a comparison result between the obtained edge value and an edge threshold.

13. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting according to claim 5, wherein the correcting means corrects the lateral width threshold so that the width threshold is set to be a preferable value for determining the condition of the vehicle seat whether a small adult passenger is sitting thereon or a child passenger is sitting thereon based on the lateral width under a first temperature range, a second temperature range higher than the first temperature range or a third temperature range lower than the first temperature range.

14. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting according to claim 12, wherein the correcting means corrects the edge threshold so that the edge threshold is set to be a preferable value for determining the condition of the vehicle seat whether a small adult passenger is sitting thereon or a child passenger is sitting thereon based on the edge under a first temperature range, a second temperature range higher than the first temperature range or a third temperature range lower than the first temperature range.

15. (Previously Presented) An occupant detecting according to claim 5, wherein the correcting means corrects the lateral width threshold by selecting a threshold, corresponding to the temperature measured by temperature sensor, from thresholds set based on a change of hardness influenced by temperature change.